ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA ALTOONA MSA BEAVER COUNTY PMSA ERIE MSA HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA JOHNSTOWN MSA LANCASTER MSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA PITTSBURGH PMSA READING MSA SCRANTON /WILKES-BARRE MSA SHARON MSA STATE COLLEGE MSA WILLIAMSPORT MSA YORK MSA

ISSUED: April 1992

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR FORCE

..... *A Monthly Statistical Analysis*

MARCH 1992 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pennsylvania's joblessness fell in March; the statewide rate of unemployment, seasonally adjusted, declined by 0.4 percentage point to 7.2 percent.**
- **Nonfarm jobs rose seasonally by 30,600 in March to 5,001,800. They were about 54,400 below their level of March 1991.**

In February 1992 . . .

- **Average weekly earnings of production workers in Pennsylvania manufacturing industries fell about a dollar to $469.45, as the average workweek dipped by 0.1 hour and average hourly pay remained $11.62.**
- **The total number of initial claims dropped 43 percent from January and weeks claimed by 12 percent.**
- **Almost $68 million benefits were paid to emergency unemployment compensation claimants.**
- **Unadjusted unemployment rates rose in 65 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.**
- **Fourteen of Pennsylvania's 15 major labor market areas had higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates than in January.**

Special Interest Topic: Economic Development System

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force . . . A Monthly Statistical Analysis

is published monthly by the Bureau of Research and Statistics.
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Inquiries can also be directed to Labor Market Analysts located throughout Pennsylvania.

The following is a list of Analysts and the counties they serve.

Analyst	Phone Number	Counties Served
Edward Murray	(215)560-1977 Philadelphia	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties in PA; Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in NJ
Kenneth Shockley	(215)378-4314 Reading	Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks Counties in PA; Warren County, NJ
James Mowad	(717)963-3443 Scranton	Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga
Fred Schneider Larry Baugher	(717)771-1299 York	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton
Glenn Lynn	(717)327-3504 Williamsport	Centre, Lycoming, Potter, Juniata, Mifflin, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
William Findley Debra Nicholson	(814)533-2213 Johnstown	Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Clearfield, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Elk, Cameron, Greene
William Ceriani Roberta Wilson	(412)565-5350 Pittsburgh	Beaver, Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Armstrong, Lawrence
Carol Patterson	(814)871-4298 Erie	Erie, Mercer, McKean, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

JOBLESSNESS in Pennsylvania receded in March, cutting back most of February's sharp increase. The statewide seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment fell to 7.2 percent in March from 7.6 percent in February. The nation's rate was unchanged at 7.3 percent in March.

Data, made available through the Current Population Survey of households and released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, show March's unemployment in Pennsylvania, adjusted for seasonality, down 29,000 to 428,000. This was the third highest number of unemployed during the recession. But March's number of unemployed and rate of 7.2 percent were only marginally higher than their year-ago levels of 418,000 unemployed and 7.1 percent. Despite the lingering recession, unemployment did not significantly worsen over the most recent 12 month period.

Employment, seasonally adjusted, rose 8,000 during March to 5,558,000 and was up a substantial 91,000 from the March 1991 level of 5,467,000, which was the low point of the recession.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

	MAR. 1992	FEB. 1992	MAR. 1991	CHANGE FROM FEB. 1992	CHANGE FROM MAR. 1991
Civilian Labor Force	5,901	5,977	5,797	-76	104
Employment	5,451	5,463	5,359	-12	92
Unemployment	450	514	438	-64	12
Rate of Unemp.	7.6%	8.6%	7.6%	-1.0	0.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					
Civilian Labor Force	5,986	6,007	5,885	-21	101
Employment	5,558	5,550	5,467	8	91
Unemployment	428	457	418	-29	10
Rate of Unemp.	7.2%	7.6%	7.1%	-0.4	0.1

The statewide labor force was down 21,000 from February 1992 to 5,986,000 this March, but this was still 101,000 more than in March 1991 and the third highest level on record, not far behind February's 6,007,000 and the all-time high of 6,008,000 reported in March 1990. The labor force growth during the past 12 months, including sizeable gains in January and February prior to March's minor setback, reflected increases both in employment and jobseekers.

Among the 11 largest states for which seasonally adjusted data are available, Pennsylvania's 7.2 percent rate of unemployment in March was tied with Ohio to rank third lowest, after tying fifth with New Jersey in February. Only New Jersey, at 7.1 percent, and North Carolina, at 6.3 percent, ranked lower this March. Five states, including Pennsylvania, had rate decreases over the month, four had increases, and two were unchanged.

PENNSYLVANIA'S JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	MAR. 1992 AP/	FEB. 1992 P/	JAN. 1992	FEB. 1991	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1992	CHANGE FROM FEB. 1991
NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS	5,001.8	4,971.2	4,965.6	5,032.5	5.6	-61.3
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,153.9	1,146.4	1,157.1	1,184.8	-10.7	-38.4
Mining	23.8	23.7	24.2	25.1	-0.5	-1.4
Construction	177.4	170.8	175.8	183.5	-5.0	-12.7
Manufacturing	952.7	951.9	957.1	976.2	-5.2	-24.3
Durable Goods	526.7	526.1	530.3	547.5	-4.2	-21.4
Lumber and Wood		26.9	26.9	28.3	0.0	-1.4
Furniture and Fixtures		17.1	17.6	18.0	-0.5	-0.9
Stone, Clay, and Glass		40.1	40.6	42.3	-0.5	-2.2
Primary Metals		81.6	81.7	84.7	-0.1	-3.1
Fabricated Metals		81.8	82.7	84.9	-0.9	-3.1
Industrial Machinery		99.6	99.8	105.8	-0.2	-6.2
Electric and Electronic Equipment		74.1	74.9	77.4	-0.8	-3.3
Transportation Equipment		47.6	48.3	48.3	-0.7	-0.7
Instruments and Related		37.8	38.5	39.0	-0.7	-1.2
Miscellaneous Manufacturing		19.5	19.3	18.8	0.2	0.7
Nondurable Goods	426.0	425.8	426.8	428.7	-1.0	-2.9
Food and Kindred		87.7	88.6	89.0	-0.9	-1.3
Textile Mill		26.1	25.6	25.2	0.5	0.9
Apparel and Other Textiles		66.3	66.4	66.3	-0.1	0.0
Paper and Allied		38.8	38.7	39.5	0.1	-0.7
Printing and Publishing		83.0	83.5	84.4	-0.5	-1.4
Chemicals and Allied		62.9	62.8	63.2	0.1	-0.3
Petroleum and Coal		10.8	10.9	10.9	-0.1	-0.1
Rubber and Plastics		41.8	42.0	41.1	-0.2	0.7
Leather		7.4	7.3	8.1	0.1	-0.7
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,846.8	3,824.0	3,806.6	3,846.2	17.4	-22.2
Transportation	156.6	156.4	156.3	156.7	0.1	-0.3
Public Utilities	105.1	105.0	104.9	105.6	0.1	-0.6
Communications		51.8	51.8	51.3	0.0	0.5
Electric, Gas and Sanitary		53.2	53.1	54.3	0.1	-1.1
Wholesale Trade	261.5	260.2	261.3	267.0	-1.1	-6.8
Retail Trade	864.8	859.7	872.6	867.6	-12.9	-7.9
General Merchandise Stores		107.9	114.7	113.7	-6.8	-5.8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	299.6	298.5	300.1	298.0	-1.6	0.5
Finance		141.3	141.6	139.0	-0.3	2.3
Insurance		117.5	118.4	118.2	-0.9	-0.7
Real Estate		39.7	40.1	40.8	-0.4	-1.1
Services	1,445.6	1,434.4	1,421.8	1,432.5	12.6	1.9
Business		193.1	193.4	198.2	-0.3	-5.1
Health		498.8	499.8	483.3	-1.0	15.5
Hospitals		266.9	267.6	258.5	-0.7	8.4
Legal		41.1	41.3	41.8	-0.2	-0.7
Educational		167.7	153.5	169.7	14.2	-2.0
Social		112.4	111.7	108.4	0.7	4.0
Other		431.3	422.1	431.1	-0.8	-9.8
Government	713.6	709.8	689.6	718.8	20.2	-9.0
Federal		136.4	135.8	137.9	0.6	-1.5
State		144.9	133.9	158.6	11.0	-13.7
Local		428.5	419.9	422.3	8.6	6.2
PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	1.1	0.8	1.9	1.5	-1.1	-0.7

AP/= Advance preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/= Preliminary data, used to compute "change from" columns.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

JOBS ROSE seasonally in March to 5,001,800, according to advance preliminary data from the monthly survey of employer payrolls. Total nonagricultural wage and salary jobs increased by 30,600 from February. Goods-producing jobs rose by 7,500, led by a gain of 6,600 in construction, and service-producing jobs increased by 22,800, especially in retail trade, services and government. Nonagricultural wage and salary jobs, however, remained 54,400 under their level of March 1991, with most losses in durable goods manufacturing, construction, trade and government.

JOBS WERE UP by 5,600 from January to 4,971,200 in February. While slightly smaller than the expected seasonal rise, this overall increase reversed back-to-back declines in December and January.

All of the net job gain came from the service-producing sector, where a better-than-expected seasonal rise of 17,400 jobs more than made up for a greater-than-usual decline of 10,700 jobs in the goods-producing sector.

The service-producing sector's February job count of 3,824,000 was the third highest February total on record. Nevertheless, it was 22,200 below its level of one year ago. Over the year, jobs in twice as many service sector industries fell as rose. The largest of the declines from February 1991 was in state government, where jobs fell by almost 14,000, while the largest gain was in health services, in which industry jobs rose by more than 15,000. Health services, the one industry exhibiting growth nationally throughout the current recession, has added jobs in Pennsylvania in all but two months since the recession began in July 1990.

For the month, the largest job growth in the service-producing industries came in educational services, reflecting school and college reopenings after winter breaks. Because the survey week tends to fall in the first half of each month, January consistently shows a decline of school and college employment from December.

For the sixth consecutive month, goods-producing industries, manufacturing industries, and durable goods manufacturing industries each recorded all-time job lows. In addition, all three had job counts well below levels of February 1991. The problem was not tied to particular industries. Of the ten industry groups which make up durable goods manufacturing, nine were down for the year and eight were down for the month. Nondurable goods manufacturing fared somewhat better. Of its nine industry groups, six were down for the year and five were down for the month. In contrast to the service-producing industries, however, no individual manufacturing industry changed -- up or down -- by as much as 1,000 over the month.

The department's job count excludes farm workers, domestic workers, unpaid family workers and the self-employed.

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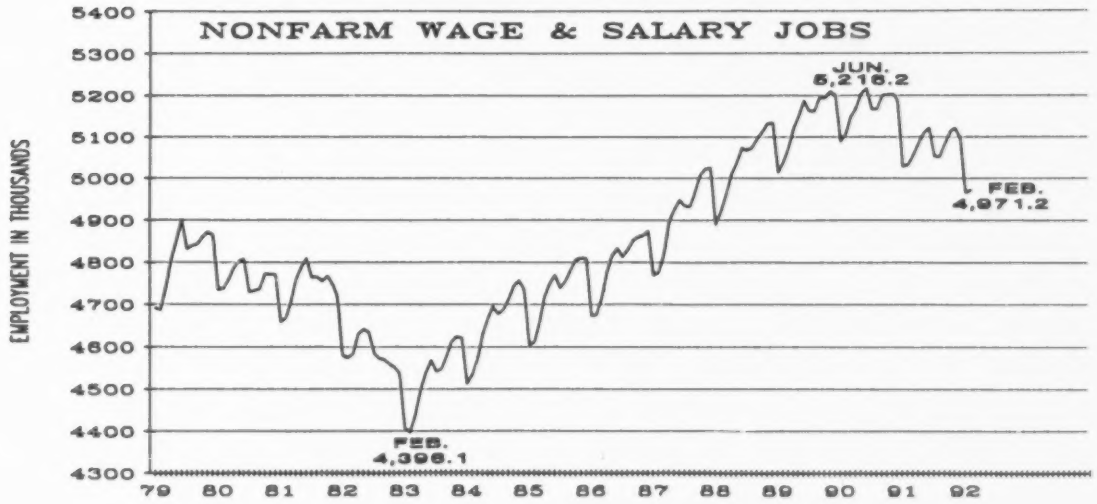
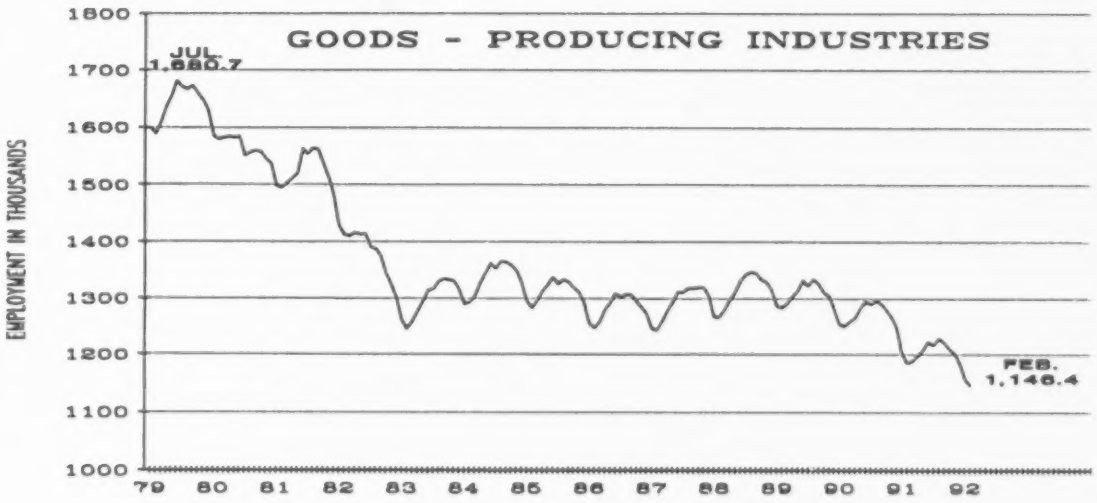
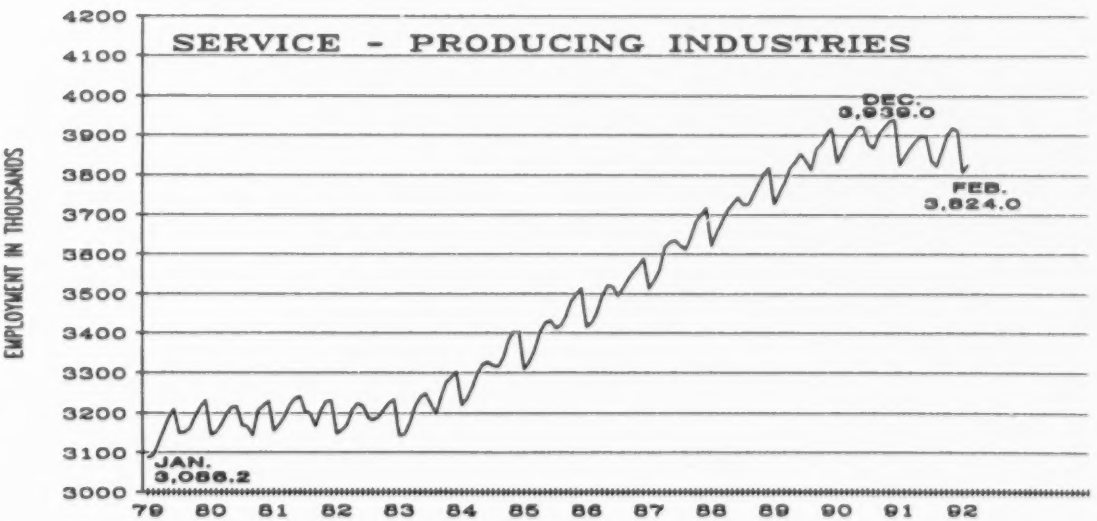
ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT

in Pennsylvania







MONTH AND YEAR

ESTABLISHMENT PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	FEB. 1992 P/	JAN. 1992	FEB. 1991	FEB. 1992 P/	JAN. 1992	FEB. 1991	FEB. 1992 P/	JAN. 1992	FEB. 1991
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	469.45	470.61	450.00	40.4	40.5	40.0	11.62	11.62	11.25
Manufacturing	507.98	509.21	484.67	41.4	41.5	40.9	12.27	12.27	11.85
Durable Goods	365.96	360.23	336.14	38.2	38.2	36.3	9.58	9.43	9.26
Lumber and Wood	376.16	383.84	373.62	38.9	39.9	39.0	9.67	9.62	9.58
Furniture and Fixtures	498.11	492.86	470.26	41.2	40.8	40.4	12.09	12.08	11.64
Stone, Clay, and Glass	576.99	592.62	540.47	41.6	42.3	41.1	13.87	14.01	13.15
Primary Metals	478.30	488.75	453.70	41.7	42.5	40.8	11.47	11.50	11.12
Fabricated Metals	538.40	532.93	520.78	42.9	42.6	42.1	12.55	12.51	12.37
Industrial Machinery	486.26	489.52	467.73	42.1	42.2	42.1	11.55	11.60	11.11
Electric and Electronic Equipment	590.14	584.80	574.41	40.3	40.0	41.0	14.63	14.62	14.01
Transportation Equipment	503.10	467.67	467.08	42.1	39.7	40.9	11.95	11.78	11.42
Instruments and Related	465.56	456.23	439.90	40.1	39.5	40.1	11.61	11.55	10.97
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	421.50	425.13	406.89	39.1	39.4	38.9	10.78	10.79	10.46
Nondurable Goods	455.90	459.29	440.27	39.2	39.8	39.7	11.63	11.54	11.09
Food and Kindred	325.65	330.46	303.62	39.0	39.2	37.3	8.35	8.43	8.14
Textile Mill	247.10	249.92	238.04	35.1	35.3	34.7	7.04	7.08	6.86
Apparel and Other Textiles	509.72	518.15	497.35	42.3	43.0	42.4	12.05	12.05	11.73
Paper and Allied	467.75	468.99	450.05	38.5	38.6	38.4	12.15	12.15	11.72
Printing and Publishing	574.75	603.39	563.64	41.3	43.4	42.0	13.75	13.91	13.42
Chemicals and Allied	713.15	645.18	721.48	42.5	39.9	44.1	16.78	16.17	16.36
Petroleum and Coal	430.50	438.04	407.03	42.0	42.2	40.5	10.25	10.38	10.05
Rubber and Plastics	275.76	268.16	286.14	36.0	35.1	38.0	7.66	7.64	7.53
Leather	612.40	618.68	577.07	40.0	40.2	38.6	15.31	15.39	14.95
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	743.47	736.59	716.13	43.2	42.9	42.2	17.21	17.17	16.97
Communications									
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary									

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

NEAR-RECORD hourly earnings of $11.62 were unchanged from January for Pennsylvania's production workers. However, a slight dip of 0.1 hour in the average workweek trimmed February's average weekly earnings to $469.45. This was $1.16 behind January's average weekly earnings and $12.52 under last December's record high.

February's average manufacturing workweek was 40.4 hours, the tenth consecutive month with a workweek averaging 40 hours or better. This reflected the surprising strength of the manufacturing sector as a whole in the current recession. Levels of over 40 hours generally provide a degree of protection against layoffs when business turns down.

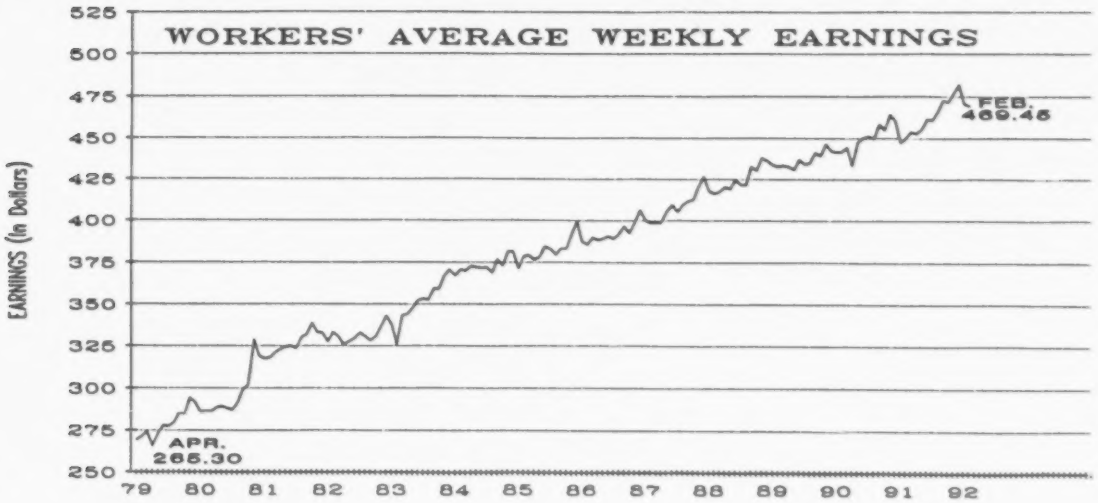
Over the month, durable goods and its 10 industry groups were changed little and there were only minor changes posted among the groups' hourly earnings. In nondurable goods, however, about two-thirds of its industry groups showed hourly declines and reduced hourly earnings for the month.

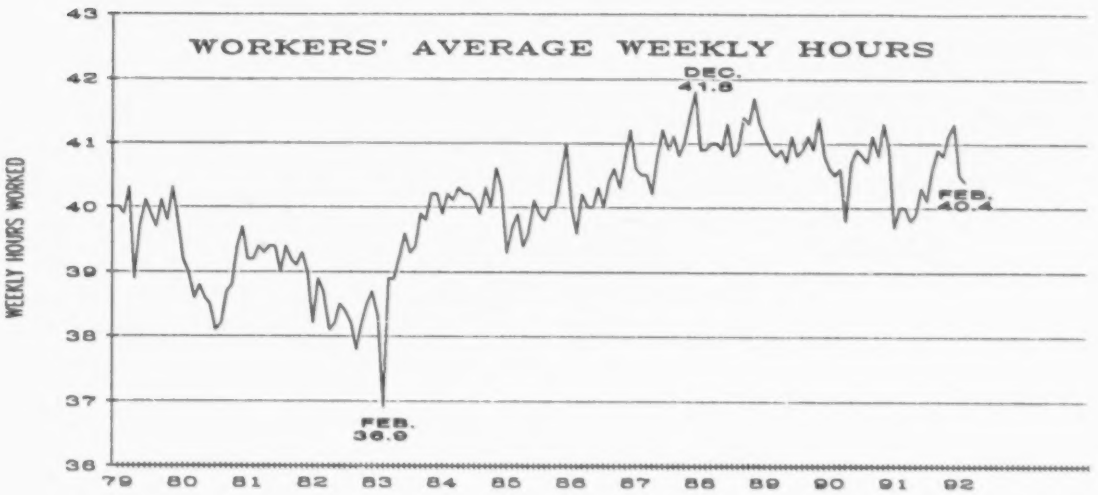
Petroleum and coal products -- a nondurable goods industry group -- showed the highest month-to-month gain in hours, hourly earnings, and consequently, weekly earnings. Weekly earnings of $713.15 for this group were nearly three times the weekly earnings of apparel, the lowest of these industry groups.

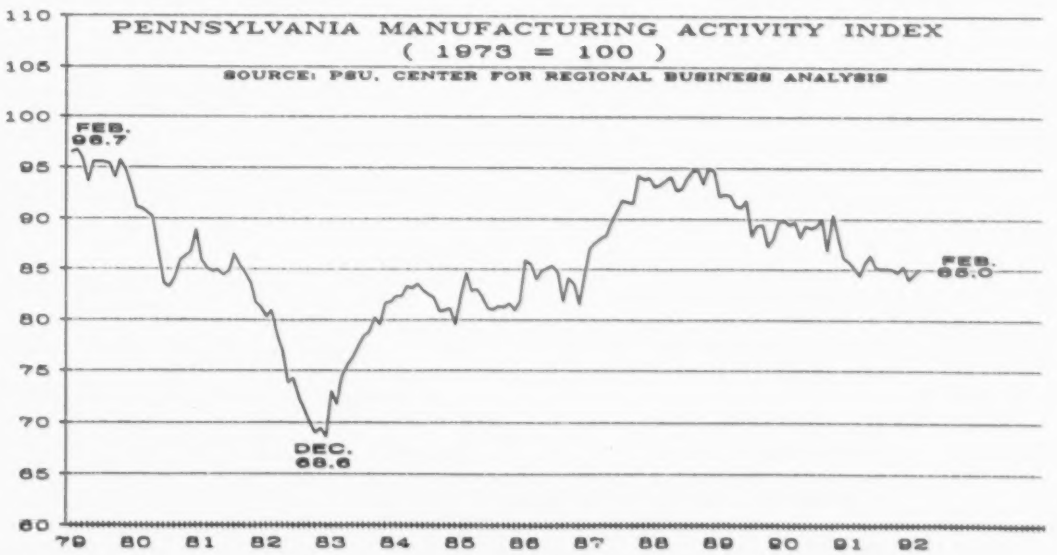
Over the year, all of the 19 manufacturing industry groups showed an increase in average hourly earnings. It is worth noting, however, of the 12 industry groups that more than kept up with inflation last year, nine of them were durable goods groups. This 'hard goods' - 'soft goods' disparity was also evident in average weekly hours. Only two durable goods groups showed a year-to-year decline in their workweek, compared with five of the nondurable goods groups. Furthermore, in both February 1991 and February 1992, the average workweek for all nondurable goods industries averaged about two hours less than it did for durable goods industries.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION

in Pennsylvania







MONTH AND YEAR

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

REGULAR PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	FEB. 1992	JAN. 1992	FEB. 1991	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1992	CHANGE FROM FEB. 1991
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	109,106	191,953	117,972	-82,847	-8,866
Weeks Claimed	1,002,226	1,136,757	977,334	-134,531	24,892
...Average Weekly Volume	238,625	247,121	244,334	-8,496	-5,709
Insured Unemployment Rate	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%	-0.1	0.0
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	58,176	99,801	64,252	-41,625	-6,076
Final Payments	14,061	18,869	9,639	-4,808	4,422
Weeks Paid	920,529	1,060,833	890,791	-140,304	29,738
Net Benefit Amount	$171,272,629	$197,334,628	$164,290,509	-$26,061,999	$6,982,120
Average Check	$186.06	$186.02	$184.43	$0.04	$1.63

CLAIMS FELL in February for the first time in five months. Initial claims dropped by 82,847 or 43 percent from January and were 8,866 fewer than in February 1991. Continued claims declined by 134,531 or 12 percent, but were still 24,892 more than in February 1991. At least part of the lower claims activity when compared to January reflected the two fewer work days in February. The insured unemployment rate declined by only 0.1 percentage point from January to 5.0 percent.

Except for a four-cent rise in the average check to $186.06, payment activity in February dropped from January 1992: first payments by 42 percent, final payments by 25 percent, and weeks paid and net benefits by 13 percent each.

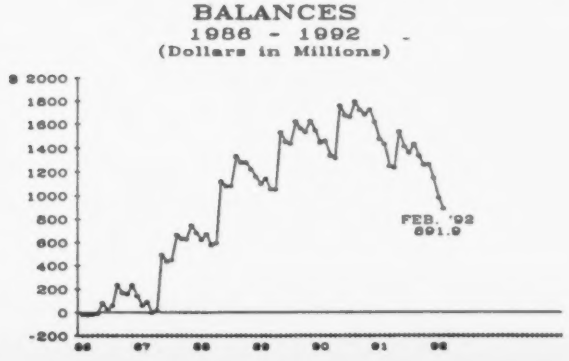
The February 29, 1992, Unemployment Trust Fund balance of $892 million was down by $93 million from January 31, as disbursements of $171 million exceeded $78 million in income.

EUC PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	Feb. 1992	Cumulative
First payments	17,681	118,704
Weeks Comp.	354,924	1,004,155
Benefit Amount	$67,657,195	$191,760,819
Average Check	$191	$191

In February, 17,681 persons received checks totalling $68 million or an average of $191 weekly for Emergency Unemployment Compensation benefits. These figures include payments to former federal employees and veterans, as well as to regular UC exhaustees. EUC began November 17 in all states. Pennsylvania claimants can draw up to 33 weeks of benefits. No new EUC claims may be filed after July 4, 1992.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACTIVITY



FEBRUARY 1992		
Income	$	78,346,365
Disbursements	$	171,263,112
Cash Reserves	$	891,889,776

UNEMPLOYMENT ... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

RATES CLIMBED in February for the second straight month in 65 Pennsylvania counties. The increases were largely seasonal. Only Jefferson County had a lower rate in February than in January, and it involved a drop of only about 100 persons.

In February, there were 35 counties with double-digit rates -- up sharply from October 1991 when there were only two. A year before, in February 1991, there were 29 counties with double-digit rates and four in October 1990.

Near the end of a recession, when jobs begin to open up, unemployment can rise even while many persons return to work. This is because job openings encourage more discouraged workers to reenter the labor force than there are jobs available for them. This partly explains the large unemployment rise in Philadelphia and its four surrounding counties. Considering just Bucks County, for example, growth in the labor force from January to February accounted for 3,400, or 83 percent, of the 4,100 unemployment increase. Two of the five counties, Bucks and Chester, had month-to-month rate hikes of 1.0 percentage point or more.

In February, the overall rate range of 5.0 to 18.8 percent among Pennsylvania's counties was little changed from January and from February 1991.

COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RANKING

	FEBRUARY 1992 P/ RANK	RATE	VOLUME	JANUARY RATE	DIFF.
Cumberland	1	5.0	5,600	4.9	0.1
Chester	2	6.2	12,300	5.2	1.0
Dauphin	2	6.2	8,600	5.8	0.4
Allegheny	4	6.6	44,800	6.1	0.5
Montgomery	4	6.6	25,300	5.8	0.8
Lancaster	6	6.7	15,300	6.2	0.5
Delaware	7	6.8	19,600	6.1	0.7
Lebanon	7	6.8	4,500	6.0	0.8
Centre	9	6.9	4,800	6.8	0.1
Adams	10	7.1	2,800	6.8	0.3
York	11	7.7	14,400	6.8	0.9
Berks	12	7.9	14,000	7.4	0.5
Franklin	12	7.9	4,800	7.3	0.6
Bucks	14	8.5	25,500	7.2	1.3
Elk	14	8.5	1,500	7.7	0.8
Lehigh	14	8.5	13,100	7.7	0.8
Bradford	17	8.6	2,700	8.0	0.6
Northampton	18	8.7	10,500	7.8	0.9
Butler	19	8.9	7,200	8.2	0.7
Perry	19	8.9	1,900	8.4	0.5
Philadelphia	19	8.9	65,000	8.0	0.9
Mercer	22	9.1	4,800	8.0	1.1
Washington	22	9.1	8,800	8.6	0.5
McKean	24	9.2	2,000	8.5	0.7
Warren	25	9.3	2,200	8.8	0.5
Erie	26	9.4	13,100	9.2	0.2
Snyder	26	9.4	1,800	8.6	0.8
Union	26	9.4	1,600	8.5	0.9
Westmoreland	26	9.4	17,100	8.9	0.5
Lackawanna	30	9.6	10,600	8.7	0.9
Cameron	31	9.8	300	8.7	1.1
Montour	31	9.8	800	7.5	2.3
Tioga	33	10.0	1,900	9.3	0.7
Venango	33	10.0	2,500	9.0	1.0
Lawrence	35	10.1	5,000	9.3	0.8
Potter	36	10.5	900	9.5	1.0
Blair	37	10.6	6,700	9.5	1.1
Luzerne	37	10.6	17,400	9.8	0.8
Lycoming	37	10.6	6,500	9.6	1.0
Crawford	40	10.8	4,400	10.4	0.4
Fulton	40	10.8	700	10.4	0.4
Susquehanna	40	10.8	2,100	10.0	0.8
Monroe	43	11.0	5,600	10.6	0.4
Schuylkill	44	11.3	8,300	10.1	1.2
Northumberland	45	11.4	5,600	10.4	1.0
Cambria	46	11.7	7,900	10.5	1.2
Columbia	47	11.8	3,900	11.8	0.0
Pike	47	11.8	1,500	11.1	0.7
Sullivan	49	12.3	400	11.1	1.2
Carbon	50	12.7	3,400	11.6	1.1
Jefferson	51	12.9	2,700	13.1	-0.2
Beaver	52	13.0	8,200	12.5	0.5
Somerset	52	13.0	4,600	11.6	1.4
Bedford	54	13.1	3,100	11.8	1.3
Fayette	55	13.3	8,400	12.1	1.2
Armstrong	56	13.4	4,000	12.3	1.1
Clearfield	56	13.4	4,900	12.4	1.0
Indiana	58	13.8	5,100	13.1	0.7
Wayne	59	13.9	2,900	13.2	0.7
Wyoming	59	13.9	2,000	12.6	1.3
Clarion	61	14.3	2,700	11.9	2.4
Greene	62	14.4	2,000	12.6	1.8
Mifflin	63	14.7	3,200	11.9	2.8
Clinton	64	15.0	2,400	12.3	2.7
Huntingdon	65	16.1	3,200	14.7	1.4
Juniata	66	17.5	1,800	16.2	1.3
Forest	67	18.8	400	18.4	0.4

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA UNEMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	FEB. 1992 P/ VOLUME	RATE	JAN. 1992 VOLUME	RATE	FEB. 1991 VOLUME	RATE
United States	9,244.0	7.3%	8,929.0	7.1%	8,130.0	6.5%
Pennsylvania	457.0	7.6	422.0	7.1	389.0	6.6
Labor Market Area						
Allentown-Bethlehem MSA	27.2	7.9	24.9	7.3	23.1	6.8
Altoona MSA	5.9	9.2	5.1	8.1	5.5	8.9
Beaver County PMSA	7.0	11.1	6.9	11.0	6.0	9.8
Erie MSA	11.4	8.2	11.5	8.3	8.9	6.5
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA	18.4	5.4	17.7	5.2	17.6	5.2
Johnstown MSA	10.8	10.5	9.5	9.4	8.9	9.0
Lancaster MSA	14.1	6.1	13.1	5.7	11.9	5.2
Philadelphia PMSA	177.0	7.2	162.7	6.6	146.7	6.0
Pittsburgh PMSA	67.6	6.6	65.1	6.4	58.4	5.8
Reading MSA	12.4	7.0	11.8	6.7	12.4	7.0
Scranton–Wilkes-Barre MSA	34.6	9.3	32.7	8.8	30.2	8.2
Sharon MSA	4.3	8.1	3.8	7.3	3.5	6.6
State College MSA	4.3	6.2	4.1	6.1	4.1	6.2
Williamsport MSA	5.5	9.0	5.0	8.3	4.9	8.1
York MSA	16.3	7.1	14.0	6.2	13.4	5.9

P/ = Preliminary data. **Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.**

RATES WERE UP in February for both Pennsylvania and the nation. While rates were up for 14 of Pennsylvania's 15 major labor market areas, only two, the Johnstown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and the Altoona MSA had month-to-month increases of 1.0 percentage point or more.

For the year, Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was up by a full percentage point to 7.6 percent. All 15 major labor market areas either tied or exceeded their rates of a year earlier. But while eight of the 15 had rate increases of a percentage point or more, none of the increases exceeded 1.7 percentage points.

Pennsylvania's south central region has weathered this recession better than any other part of the state. For the last 12 months, the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle and Lancaster MSAs both have consistently had the lowest unemployment rates ranging from 4.7 to 6.1 percent. As the state capital area, the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA has proven to be comparatively recession-proof, while the Lancaster MSA has benefited from a wide variety of goods- and service-producing jobs that have held up very well.

The Beaver County Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) has just as consistently suffered the state's highest unemployment. For the third month in a row, the Beaver County PMSA has had a double-digit rate which has risen steadily since last October. The Beaver County PMSA has never been able to pick itself up from the crippling loss of its heavy industrial base 10 years ago.

While February is the first month when the Johnstown MSA unemployment rate has exceeded 10 percent since May, Johnstown's rate has for some time been one of the state's highest. After reaching a low of 8.7 percent last November, Johnstown's rate climbed every month since then. Like Beaver, Johnstown has suffered from an erosion of its heavy industrial base. But unlike Beaver, Johnstown's problem goes beyond the loss of its heavy industry: Johnstown has a mining industry that has been in decline as well.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREA LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	FEBRUARY 1992 P/ LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME	RATE
01	Erie	139.6	126.5	13.1	9.4
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	110.8	98.6	12.2	11.0
03	City of Pittsburgh	177.3	165.3	12.0	6.7
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	498.5	465.6	32.8	6.6
05	Beaver	62.8	54.6	8.2	13.0
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	147.9	131.6	16.3	11.0
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	245.7	220.2	25.5	10.4
08	Greene, Washington	111.0	100.2	10.8	9.8
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	108.5	96.1	12.3	11.4
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	215.8	189.7	26.1	12.1
11	Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder, Union	237.1	213.0	24.2	10.2
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	87.2	78.1	9.1	10.4
14	Lackawanna	110.9	100.3	10.6	9.6
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	111.3	97.8	13.4	12.1
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	236.7	211.1	25.6	10.8
17	Philadelphia	727.9	662.8	65.0	8.9
18	Bucks	301.8	276.3	25.5	8.5
19	Montgomery	386.1	360.7	25.3	6.6
20	Delaware	289.1	269.5	19.6	6.8
21	Chester	198.9	186.6	12.3	6.2
22	Lehigh, Northampton	273.9	250.2	23.6	8.6
23	Berks	176.3	162.3	14.0	7.9
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry	346.7	324.3	22.4	6.5
25	Lancaster	228.0	212.7	15.3	6.7
26	York	186.7	172.3	14.4	7.7
27	Adams, Franklin	101.5	93.8	7.7	7.6
28	Lawrence, Mercer	101.9	92.1	9.8	9.6
29	Montour, Northumberland	57.5	51.0	6.4	11.2
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	**5977.0**	**5463.0**	**514.0**	**8.6**

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

P/ = Preliminary data.

Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC

Pennsylvania Leads Nation In Test of Economic Development System

Pennsylvania has been chosen by the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) as the lead state of six pilot states which began testing in March an electronic database system for economic development and business and industry planning. The Economic Development and Employer Planning System (EDEPS) is the first comprehensive national system of its kind developed specifically for economic development and business planning purposes.

Pilot testing is currently underway at 16 sites in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Connecticut, Iowa and Utah. The Pennsylvania Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (POICC) within the Department of Labor and Industry is coordinating this effort to develop and test the system.

The Economic Development and Employer Planning System (EDEPS) contains national, state and local area economic data organized and integrated in a computerized user-friendly database system. Principal users will be organizations involved with long-term economic planning such as regional economic development corporations and persons in the public or private sectors who are involved in start-up or expansion decisions for business and industry. EDEPS will also be useful for many individuals or businesses seeking information on the economic status of a state or substate area.

The EDEPS database includes such information as population and labor force data, income characteristics, area wages, occupational patterns, training resources, listings of industrial parks and sites for development, the availability of financial and technical assistance in a particular community or state and quality of life factors.

POICC is an eleven-member organization designated by the Governor to promote and coordinate the development and use of occupational, labor market and career information. POICC member agencies include the Pennsylvania Departments of Labor and Industry, Education, Public Welfare, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Partnership, the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board for Vocational Education, the State Job Training Coordinating Council and the Governor's Policy Office.

For more information about EDEPS in Pennsylvania contact Fritz Fichtner, Executive Director, POICC, at (717) 787-8646.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1987) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by average annual covered employment. Average annual covered employment is estimated until six months after year's end due to a lag in reporting covered employment.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employee contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Cash Reserves - Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits.